

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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No. 12



A December view of a portion of Lake Mathews, with the Outlet Tower at right center. Here, held in storage and within close reach of the District cities, are billions of gallons of Colorado River water.

Water Line from Metropolitan Aqueduct To San Diego Authorized by the President

Declaring that there is "an impending emergency in the water supply of San Diego," President Roosevelt has instructed that this critical situation be met by prompt construction of a water supply line to deliver Colorado River water to the affected area by the way of a connection with the completed and

operating aqueduct of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Referring to the urgent need for a supplemental water supply from the Colorado River for the San Diego territory, the Chief Executive in a letter addressed to the Vice President under

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Purpose of Mexican Water Treaty Stated

Because it is unfair to United States communities in the unreasonably large quantity of Colorado River water which it gives to Mexican landowners, and because it sets up a one-man Federal Commission with well-nigh unlimited powers, the proposed Mexican treaty is opposed by the people of California. The treaty is scheduled to come up for hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee starting January 22.

In many discussions of the treaty there has been much said concerning the complex provisions of this document. It may be well, at this time, to review briefly some of the basic objectives of the treaty. To this end the following questions and answers are given:

Q. With what does the Mexican treaty deal?

A. It deals with three North American rivers. They are the Rio Grande, the Tijuana, and the Colorado.

Q. Where is the Rio Grande?

A. Its main stream, for a distance of 1200 miles, forms the boundary between Texas in the United States and Mexico, and it has tributaries in both Mexico and the United States.

Q. What does the treaty do about the Rio Grande?

A. The treaty allocates to Texas one-half the water in the international boundary section of the river below Fort Quitman, of which about 70% comes from Mexico. In addition, Texas obtains one-third of the flow at the mouths of six Mexican tributaries, with a minimum guarantee of 350,000 acre feet a year. Texas retains the flow of the Pecos River and six other named tributaries draining areas in the United States.

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 of all other citizens of the Metropolitan
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Water for San Diego

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date of November 22, 1944, stated:

"Owing to the very large naval, other military, war industrial, and war-housing installations in the area, the situation is of emergency importance to the Federal Government."

In his letter the President declared that he had approved the recommendations of a Federal interdepartmental committee which had urged the immediate construction of the Colorado River water supply line from a connection with the Metropolitan Water District aqueduct.

The San Diego water line, it was pointed out, will connect with the Metropolitan Aqueduct at the west portal of the San Jacinto tunnel and will extend over a distance of 71.5 miles to the San Vicente Reservoir in the vicinity of San Diego. To finance the cost of the line, the President has authorized an allocation of Federal funds in the amount of \$17,500,000.

In referring to the probable cost of constructing a Colorado River water supply line by way of a connection with the aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District as compared with a tunnel, conduit and pump lift line connecting with the All American Canal in the Imperial Valley, the committee reported:

"The estimated total construction cost of building the connection to the Metropolitan Water District aqueduct is \$17,500,000 and of building the connection to the All American Canal is \$24,750,000."

Plans and specifications for the San Diego water line are to be prepared by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and the building of the line is to be carried forward by the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy, with other Federal agencies cooperating.

Making special reference to the use and value of the water delivery line as

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Purpose of Treaty

Q. What will this water be used for in Texas?

A. Principally for the irrigation of grapefruit land (present and potential).

Q. Where is the Tijuana River?

A. It is a small stream flowing partly in the United States and partly in Mexico, and is situated near San Diego, California.

Q. What does the treaty do about the Tijuana?

A. It does nothing except to declare that Mexico and the United States agree at some future time to allocate its available water between the two countries.

Q. Where is the Colorado River?

A. Its main stream flows for 1700 miles within the United States and 50 miles in Mexico, where it empties into the Gulf of California. With its tributaries, it flows through or forms the boundaries of seven states of the Union, namely, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona and California.

Q. How important is the Colorado to the United States?

A. It is one of the major rivers of the United States, and the largest river in the Southwest. It is a vital water supply source for the states within its basin, and is the only water source for large areas in Nevada, Arizona and California. All the water in the Colorado River comes from the United States.

Q. How important is the Colorado River to Mexico?

A. Its importance to Mexico as a whole is insignificant. That part of Mexico within reach of its water is delta land which represents only a minute fraction of the total area of Mexico.

Mexico has water resources from hundreds of other streams.

Q. What does the treaty do about the Colorado River?

A. It requires the United States to deliver a minimum of 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water annually to Mexican lands. It gives to Mexico a first priority ahead of long-established American water rights.

Q. What is an acre foot of water?

A. An acre foot of water equals about 330,000 gallons. The 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water which the treaty would give to Mexico each year is more water than the 7,500,000 people of Greater New York and the 2,000,000 people of Philadelphia use annually for all domestic and industrial purposes.

Q. What will this Colorado River water be used for in Mexico?

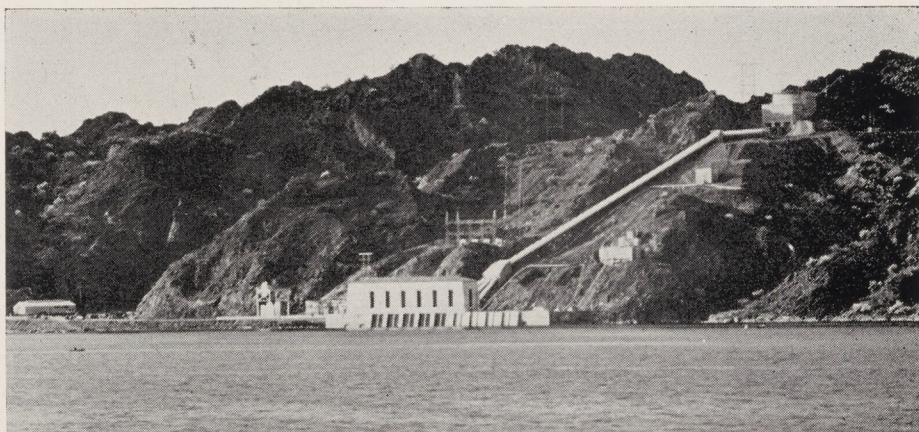
A. Principally for the raising of cotton.

Q. Will the giving of such a large quantity of Colorado River water to Mexico work an injury to United States communities?

A. Yes. The additional water so freely given to Mexico is urgently needed to protect and support a strategic Pacific defense area; it is needed by millions of people and thousands of industrial plants in large population centers, and it is needed to irrigate large areas of agricultural and horticultural land, all within the United States.

Q. Does the treaty affect any of the United States Government's pledges to deliver Colorado River water to American communities?

A. Yes. It ignores and violates these pledges long since written into contracts and compacts.



Intake of Colorado River Aqueduct on the California shoreline of Lake Havasu, two miles upstream from Parker Dam.

● MONTHLY REPORT ●

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds filed with the Board of Directors in December 1944, covering work done in November 1944.)

Construction

Salt Storage Basin — The contractor completed the construction of salt storage basin No. 3 at the Softening and Filtration Plant on November 24, 1944, and a notice of completion was mailed to the Recorder of Los Angeles County for filing.

Operation and Maintenance

General — Power demand of Basic Magnesium, Inc. decreased steadily from a maximum of 42,525 kw early in the month to a maximum of 21,525 on the 16th and 18,563 on the 30th. Total energy delivered to B.M.I. in November was 15,108,525 kwhr, a daily average of 503,617 kwhr compared with 1,435,800 in October.

District forces completed the repair of and additions to the building at 128 East Third Street and the garage facilities have been moved to the new location.

Parker Dam — Water surface in Lake Havasu varied between elevation 447.2 feet at the beginning and 445.9 at the end of the month. The discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam averaged 19,697 cubic feet per second, compared with 19,142 in October.

Parker Power Plant — The Parker power system was in parallel with the District system continuously during the first half of the month and for 12 to 18 hours per day during the second half. Energy delivered to the Parker system amounted to 6,682,995 kwhr, and 2,130,000 were received from Parker.

Main Aqueduct — Patrol, maintenance, and water inspection trips were made along the aqueduct at regular intervals. Water in some of the siphons was treated with copper sulphate to control algae.

Pumping Plants — The pumping plants were operated continuously between November 2 and 15, to deliver water to Lake Mathews.

Distribution System — Water level in Lake Mathews on November 30 was 1340.61 feet, which represents 73,346 acre feet of available storage, an increase in water storage for the month of 2,922 acre feet, and a rise in level of 1.75 feet. At the softening and filtration plant water was softened from an average hardness of 365 ppm to 100 ppm. Flow through the plant decreased sharply with the coming of rain and

cool weather, to an average of 29 cfs, or 19,013,000 gallons per day, compared with 31,088,000 in October. During the month softened water was delivered to Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Compton, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Ana, Santa Monica and the Coastal Municipal Water District.

Office Engineering and Design — A layout and an estimate were prepared for a by-pass pipe to facilitate servicing of the regulating valves at the north portal of Hollywood tunnel. Details of fittings and specifications for purchase of piping and equipment were drawn for an additional connection to the Orange County pipe line in the southerly portion of Santa Ana. A revised layout was made up of the proposed circulating system for the Orange County reservoir.

Hydrography — The Mexican water treaty required constant attention. Regular and special meetings of the California Colorado River Board were attended, also a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Committee of Sixteen in Denver, Colorado, for study of the U. S. B. R. "comprehensive" report on the Colorado River basin. On November 30 usable storage in Lake Mead was 21,166,000 acre feet with water surface at elevation 1174.57 feet. The discharge from Lake Mead averaged 19,770 cfs, compared with 19,701 in October.

Employment — During the month, 2 classified positions were filled and there were 6 transfers and 2 changes of status. The personnel office also recorded 2 terminations, 2 employment contracts and 41 interviews.

Right of Way — The escrow for the sale of the Banning property was completed November 15. The heavy rains caused some damage in the citrus groves by erosion and by deposit of debris from higher lands. There are now in effect 3 leases, 40 reverse leases, 10 rentals and 3 reverse rentals.

Purchasing — In November there were issued 209 purchase orders and four agreements in the approximate amount of \$11,970.00. Freight handled included one car of aluminum sulphate and 41 cars of sodium chloride to the softening and filtration plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to \$10,508.58. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was \$257,419.74.

Newport Beach Seeks Annexation

By unanimous vote of its City Council, meeting on December 4, 1944, the City of Newport Beach filed with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California an application for permission to annex to the District.

Situated on the south coast of Orange County, this municipality is near the territorial limits of the Coastal Municipal Water District, which includes Laguna Beach and the Costa Mesa area and is now a part of the District.

Consideration was given by the District Board of Directors to the future Colorado River water requirements of the entire south Orange County coastal area at the time permission was granted in 1942 for the annexation of the Coastal Municipal Water District. In the light of these considerations, the Board, in responding to the application of Newport Beach advised the City Council of the beach city as follows:

"The general policy of the Metropolitan Water District, as heretofore expressed, would require that, if you desire to make the City of Newport Beach a part of the Metropolitan Water District, the annexation be to the Coastal Municipal Water District which is already a part of the Metropolitan Water District, rather than by annexation of your city as a separate unit."

If there are special reasons which would make the suggested procedure undesirable, the District Board stated that it would be pleased to give such reasons full consideration.

Water for San Diego

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a permanent supply system for the people of San Diego and a number of neighboring communities, the President in his letter stated:

"I have asked the San Diego County Water Authority and the City of San Diego to press negotiations with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in order that an equitable arrangement may be completed for the permanent operation of the works which will have continued value and utility."

It has been reported from Washington that construction work on the San Diego connection is to start within the next four months; it is scheduled to be completed within two years.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Mrs. Gordon H. Biggins

On Dec. 22 at 9:30 in the evening, Marilyn June Gifford, Clerk in the Purchasing, was married to Air Cadet Gordon Harry Biggins, presently stationed at Luke Field, Phoenix, Arizona. Mrs. Biggins joined the District organization in December, 1943.

During the last few days of December there came to the District employees in the office and field many letters from ex-aqueducters now in service and those on military leave acknowledging receipt of Christmas packages sent out by "The MWD Gang." These Christmas packages were sent to all for whom up-to-date addresses could be obtained.

To each of the men in foreign service there was sent a five-pound package containing 31 gift items. To each of the men and women stationed in the United States was sent a two-pound fruit cake.

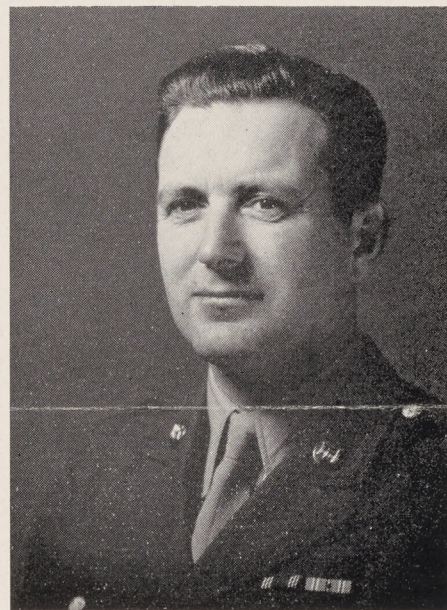
While all District employees contributed toward the gifts, it was Mrs. Ethel Lockhart who organized the movement, selected the gifts, and supervised the preparation of the individual packages. Among those who helped with the packing and wrapping of the boxes were Ruth Thiers, Marion Crews, Dolores Sholz, Ruth Carlson, Fannie Mae Fink, Belle Cawley, Nadene Cherry, Vera Roucka, Owen Wilson, Bob Armstrong, Jack Williams and John Keigan.

From aqueducters overseas came several Christmas messages. One of them was from Capt. N. F. (Nick) Crossley, with the Army Engineers in France. Word came also from Sgt. Bill Black, somewhere in the South Pacific, and from Cpl. Walter Napier, with Army forces in the Aleutians.

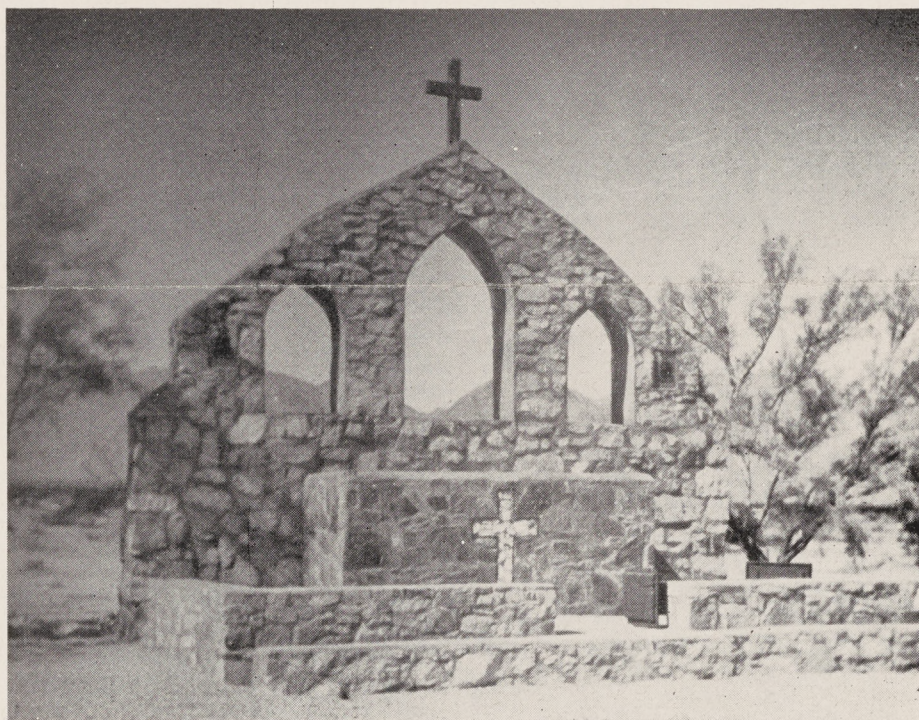
Lieut. Comdr. W. W. (Bill) Aultman sent greetings from the Hawaiian Islands. He, too, expressed thanks for his Christmas package, and went on to say:

"Sometime in the not too distant future we expect to be shoving off to another unknown destination. What we will get into we have no idea, but from the way things have been going out that way recently I have a hunch that we may get into a little hot stuff—action and not necessarily weather.

"Our holiday celebration was made much more Christmassy by the decorations which Dolores Sholz and Putt purchased for us and which Jack packed up and sent us. They came through in fine shape and all were thoroughly appreciated. Thanks a lot!"



Corporal Jack Bickford. After almost two years of service with the U. S. Army in the Aleutians, Jack returned to Southern California in December. Now on furlough, he is visiting with his father in Los Angeles. He expects soon to be ordered to Camp Bowie, Texas.



In the gloaming on the desert, a soldier's altar to God. It stands in the open desert near Iron Mountain pumping plant. It was built with native rock by General George Patton's immortal warriors while they were in training out along the Colorado River Aqueduct. Here during 1942 and '43, worshiped thousands of American fighting men. Today they are locked in mortal combat with a savage foe.